



Embroidery work is exhibited by Mrs. Lilley Lee (left) for Miss Suzanne Eng, 106 Tuckerman street N.W., an employee of the Chinese Embassy. Notice the intricate Chinese scrollwork in the background.



Exterior of the On Leong Association, 620 H street N.W., where the tong council meets to settle controversies and determine policies.

except that it can severely discipline a recalcitrant member. The largest and most powerful of the tongs is the On Leong Association, with about 500 members. Of the lesser tongs the most important is the Hip Sing.

When two members of the same tong have a dispute, or there is some other grave issue involving members, the matter is referred to the tong council. In strict secrecy the council, consisting of about 20 members, considers the respective sides and renders its judgment.

Should a Chinese want to open a restaurant outside of Chinatown, his tong decides whether he would be situated too close to another member restaurateur. If the competition would not be too keen the association gives its blessing and even lends him money, if need be. For some reason Chinatown itself is "open territory," and businesses can open there without regard to competition.

In a dispute between members of rival tongs a peaceful settlement is arranged through the respective tong leaders. If there is trouble between a tong member and a nonmember the settlement might be arranged through

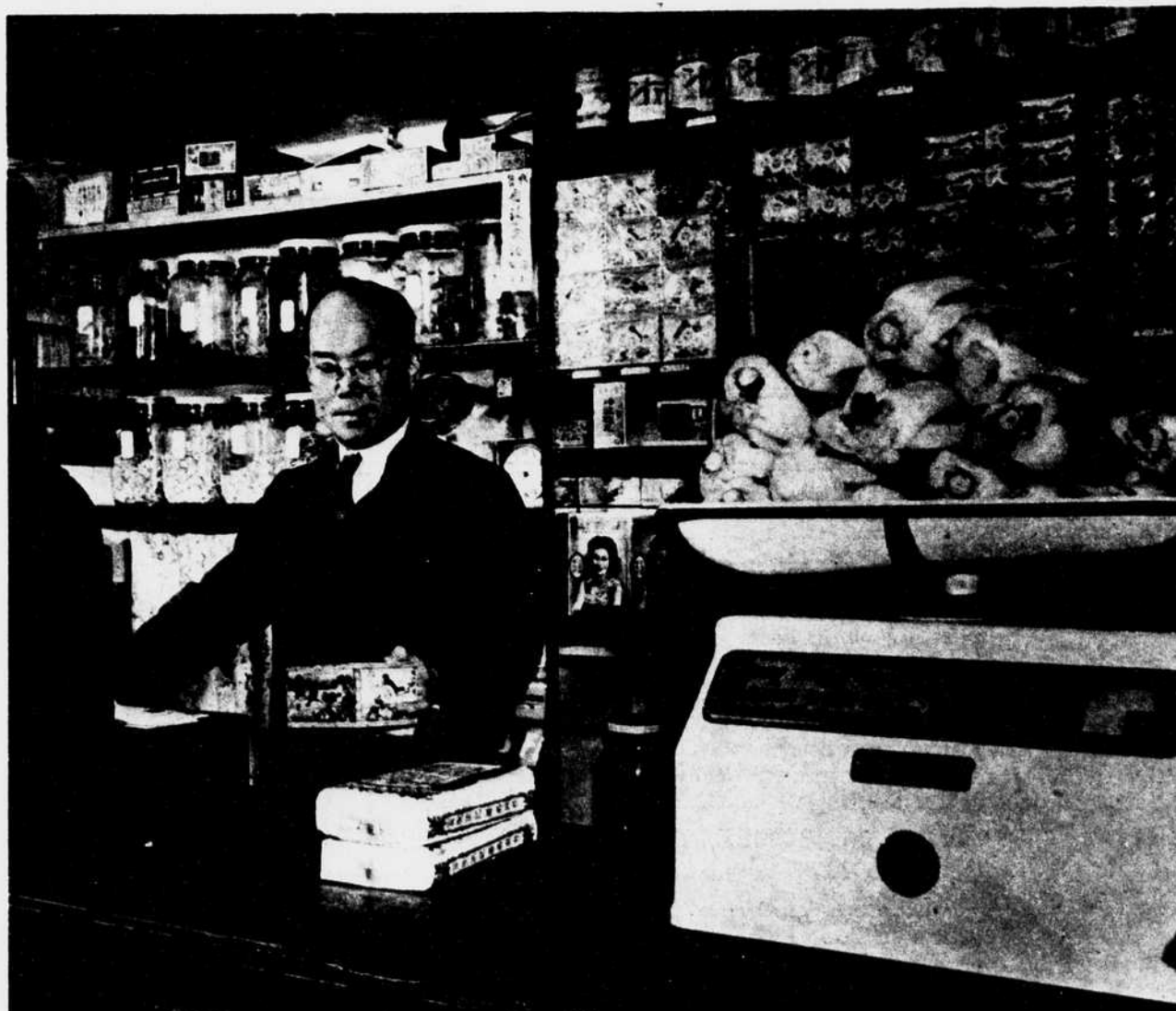
the family association of the nonmember.

The net effect of these peace-making agencies is to insure a community which veteran policemen claim is one of the least troublesome in the entire city.

"They mind their own business and keep out of trouble," says one policeman who walked the Chinatown beat for years. "They're good people."

For the few who do run afoul of the law there is always George Moy, "mayor" of Chinatown, who has the confidence of both the Chinese and the police, and who, furthermore, speaks excellent English. Mr. Moy, a restaurant keeper like his father before him, is what might be called a trouble shooter. At any time of day or night he might be called to the bedside of a sick On Leong member to see that a doctor is called or that the patient gets to the hospital and the bills paid. Or when some member is arrested he finds out what the charge is, procures a lawyer and a bondsman.

Secretary of the On Leong association, Mr. Moy says that while his first duty is to his tong he also helps nonmembers who ask assistance.



Chinese "grocery store." The merchant is Sam Chin Mon. Piled on the scales at the right is bok toy, a Chinese vegetable. The large jars on the shelf contain mushrooms, dried vegetables, lotus seeds and Chinese cheese. *Star Staff Photos by Paul Schmick.*